California Institute for Regenerative Medicine

DNA methylation fingerprint of neuroblastoma reveals new biological and clinical insights.

Journal:	Epigenomics
Publication Year:	2015
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PubMed link:	26067621
Funding Grants:	TSRI Center for hESC Research, The Stem Cell Matrix: a map of the molecular pathways that define pluripotent cells, Ensuring the safety of cell therapy: a quality control pipeline for cell purification and validation, Collaborative Laboratory for Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research at Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute

Public Summary:

We performed epigenetic analysis of neuroblastoma, which provides new insights into the pathogenesis and clinical behavior of this pediatric tumor.

Scientific Abstract:

AIM: To define the DNA methylation landscape of neuroblastoma and its clinicopathological impact. MATERIALS & METHODS: Microarray DNA methylation data were analyzed and associated with functional/regulatory genome annotation data, transcriptional profiles and clinicobiological parameters. RESULTS: DNA methylation changes in neuroblastoma affect not only promoters but also intragenic and intergenic regions at cytosine-phosphate-guanine (CpG) and non-CpG sites, and target functional chromatin domains of development and cancer-related genes such as CCND1. Tumors with diverse clinical risk showed differences affecting CpG and, remarkably, non-CpG sites. Non-CpG methylation observed essentially in clinically favorable cases was associated with the differentiation status of neuroblastoma and expression of key genes such as ALK. CONCLUSION: This epigenetic fingerprint of neuroblastoma provides new insights into the pathogenesis and clinical behavior of this pediatric tumor.